

STATEWIDE INTEROPERABILITY GOVERNING BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
July 14, 2015

ATTENDEES: Ron Baldwin, Vice Chair, State CIO; Kevin Myhre, MLCT; Curt Stinson, MACOP; Geoff Feiss, MTA; Bonnie Lorang, MITS; Tom Butler, DOJ/MHP; Bob Drake, MVFFA; Jon Swartz, DOT; Siri Smillie, Governor's Office; Rhonda Fenner, Governor's Office of Indian Affairs.

GUESTS: Quinn Ness, DOA/SITSD; Dan Sullivan, DOA/SITSD; Jim DeTienne, DPHHS, Chad Hultin, DOA/SITSD; Trudy Skari, DOA/SITSD; Mike Feldman, DOJ/MHP; Rhonda Sullivan, DOA/SITSD; Steve Keller, DOT; Dan Hawkins, U.S. DHS/OEC

CONFERENCE CALL: Joe Briggs, MACO; Patrick Lonergan, MFCA; Keith Cook, Motorola Solutions

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair, Ron Baldwin at 1:34 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Geoff Feiss moved to accept the June minutes and Jon Swartz seconded. The motion carried.

STATUS REPORTS:

Statewide Trunked LMR Systems: Quinn Ness provided updates on the following:

- The Cominco site Motorola extended warranty payment has been processed to Powell County; and second year payment for Hill County Sheriff's Office communication site has also been processed.
- The only remaining outstanding Motorola extended warranty payment is for the Hill County #1 site, which is pending the official equipment transfer from Flathead County to Hill County.
- Funding commitments will be released on the following four sites: Highwood Baldy, Jette, Fallon and Makoshika.
- Geoff Feiss commented on the importance of getting these four sites under warranty.
- Kevin Myhre will discuss taking on the Highwood Baldy site (trunking equipment only) at his next Central MT 9-1-1 Board meeting, and will get back to the board.
- Remaining balance for 2013 HB10 final appropriations is approximately \$95K.
- Ron Baldwin, State CIO, will provide a final project close-out report to the interim Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for the Statewide Public Safety Communications System project. As there is no state funding remaining, with the exception of the funds obligated to the completion of the microwave hops along I94 that are being managed by DOJ/MHP. In the future reports and testimony will only be provided to the LFC upon their request.

FirstNet Broadband Network: Dan Sullivan provided the following report:

- Data Collection: A contract is now in place with the MT State Library- GIS to render the required maps for FirstNet.
- These maps will be used by the SIGB to identify Montana's five coverage priorities.
- The state 9-1-1 program has requested that Public Service Answering Points (PSAPs) provide call data and a specific map-layer depicting this information will also be included.

- Maps for each Tribal Nation will be generated; with a meeting on August 21 to discuss those coverage area priorities.
- Membership lists have been received for MSPOA, MACOP and DMA/DES.
- Still waiting on membership lists from the emergency medical services and fire associations.
- Work has begun on the DHS/OEC public safety tools for access to the survey in order to begin monitoring all respondents.
- Data collection covers FirstNet's immediate goal of providing a RFP in order to select a prime contractor. This must be completed before state and territory deployment plans can be formulated and before these plans are provided to the Governor.
- RFP Tentative Timeline:
 - Issue the RFP by the beginning of 2016.
 - Make a selection by mid-2016.
 - State and territory plans to be completed by late 2016.
- August & September SIGB Meetings Timeline:
 - August 11th Meeting: State Library GIS staff to present maps/information.
 - September 8th Meeting: Board to review draft.
 - September 30th: Compile final report and send to FirstNet.

OPEN BOARD TOPIC DISCUSSION/PLANNING FROM JUNE MEETING:

- Facilitator to speak on a Business Plan:
 - Where will funding come from?
 - Siri Smillie reported that Jerry Murphy, Governor's Office, will meet with Director Tooley and Tom Butler, DOJ, to discuss a short/long term business plan; and review how other states have structured theirs.
- Renewal of Executive Order:
 - Siri Smillie: Suggested forming a FirstNet advisory body.
 - Kevin Myhre:
 - Today, there are the same statewide radio concerns/issues as 17 years ago, and it's time for a solution, as past/current concepts have not worked.
 - Possibly move towards a strategy and local push, but not a business plan.
 - Bottom line is *"how to get interoperable radio in Montana."* The state should take the lead and SIGB needs to make that happen. If this board can't attain the goals, then consider forming a new board.
 - Need to come up with a strategy that legislature would fund, such as adding on to an existing department.
 - The SIGB's main goal should be to stress the importance of future public safety communications for Montana.
 - A successful strategy should be determined with a solution that will work. If a local solution doesn't, then start implementing a statewide solution.
 - Need to figure out once and for all who owns sites and who will maintain them.
 - Long-term, need to decipher what the best interest is for statewide interoperable radio system.
 - The state has a \$60M+ investment in this system. However, if MSPOA and MACOP and Fire Chief's Associations decide statewide radio isn't important to them, then the plug should be pulled. But these conversations need to happen.
 - It would be beneficial to implement a survey for emergency responders on the importance of statewide radio.

- Tom Butler:
 - From his view, one problem is the people Kevin speaks about, were not in line at the podium this past legislative session, and that needs to happen.
 - Until local officials decide that this is an important issue for them, these efforts are a lost cause.
- Geoff Feiss: This involves more than just a public safety communications community, as 9-1-1 and PSAPs also play a roll.
- Ron Baldwin:
 - Legislative interest lies in knowing the sustainability of the system.
 - Ron and Siri will take these comments to the budget director, along with conversations of continuation of this board and renewal of the Executive Order.
- Quinn Ness: There are many other activities to support interoperability including technology standards as well as training and exercises, like those offered by DMA/DES.

For Next Legislative Session:

- Ron Baldwin will close out the statewide land mobile radio project and reporting to the LFC by September 30.
- Rather than speak to the legislature about funding, the approach of explaining exactly what has been accomplished and completed should be the focus.
- The board needs to explain that the value proposition has been examined with local officials and emergency response agencies and that the board believes that the system needs to be sustained.
- First responders need to provide examples of how the system has worked for them, and how it will take them into the next generation of integrated public safety communications, to include Next Generation 9-1-1 and FirstNet.
- The board needs to identify an agreed upon funding source.
- Bob Drake stated that a major problem is the legislature only considers two-year projects, and this is a never ending project; and locals get nervous with state commitments, because they never go longer than two years.
- Ron explained that we need to move towards a stable funding source that is in statute (statutory appropriation).
- The board needs to draft legislation that will provide the path for future integrated public safety communications, and this draft legislation needs to be completed by March 2016.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

NEXT MEETING/ADJOURN: The next meeting is on August 11, 2015 in the DOT Commission Room at 1:30 pm. Adjournment at 2:50.